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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Science and Technology Advisory Panel

21 MAY 1980

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

[REDACTED]
Chief, Development and Analysis Center, OER

FROM:

[REDACTED]
Chairman, Science and Technology Advisory
Panel

SUBJECT: Your proposal for new intelligence publication

1. Your proposal presented at the September 1979 STAP meeting stimulated considerable discussion among individual members and the idea was further discussed at the December meeting. No consensus was found. In fact a bipolar spectrum emerged, with a few members favoring an attempt at such a publication and a few others seriously opposed to it.

2. Some of the specific comments were as follows:

o Probably a small group of enthusiastic writers would make most of the contributions--this might skew the ideas in a particular direction, rather than having a broad brush approach which might present a diversity of views, possibly conflicting.

o Busy people probably do not have sufficient incentive to contribute to such a publication and it is busy people who probably have the most input for ideas.

o You may be asking for too "finished" an article--not everyone is able or has time to write such items, even though he may have good information and ideas.

o A good idea--I think the Intelligence Community should try it.

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o Interesting, but a poor substitute for advisory groups and "think pieces" from their members.

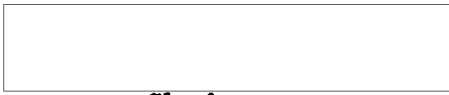
o Intelligence is seldom complete--average estimated at 20% one time. Comments from 100 "selected" contributors without that 20% would be of questionable value. Uninformed comment can be a waste of time.

o A lot of contributions would take a lot of analyst time to review and critique, an expenditure that would be difficult to justify.

3. In sum we feel the concept has a certain appeal but that there are, as you know, substantial problems in its implementation. Many of the goals of your publication might be met on a somewhat smaller scale by inviting people outside but knowledgeable of the Intelligence Community to submit "think pieces" to Contra.

4. If you pursue your project further, STAP members would be happy to comment on any subsequent development of your proposal.

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Chairman

Dist:

Orig - Addressee

1 - CH/STAP

1 - CH/STIC

② - STAP/Chrono & Subj

OSWR/STIC/STAP: 

(21 May 1980)

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